631 663 no government had ever decided to apply such a programme of retrenchment voluntarily and deprive itself of the privilege which the dispensation of posts brought to it. For it must not be forgotten that the politicians held the electorate by the hope of office and the civil service by fear of dismissal from their posts.

645 663 Another administrative reform was a decrease in the number of Ministries. That of railways, posts and telegraphs, has been merged with that of Public Works into a Ministry of Communications, while those of Agriculture, and of Commerce and Industry have been fused into the Ministry of National Economy. This change will not only effect an economy in the personnel, but will obviate the necessity of duplicating similar work and services and generally simplify and expedite the work of the institutes. While the placing of the Ministries of Industry and Agriculture under the same management will greatly facilitate the work of reconciling rival and often contradictory policies, which hitherto prevented the adoption of a rational general plan. Cuts and economies were effected in all branches of the administrations, the Ministers themselves setting the example by reducing their salaries by 50%, an example which was followed by managers of both State and private banks and other institutions.

663 475 316 On July 12, 1934 less, than two months from his assuming power, M. Kimon Gheorghiev announced in a public speech that his government had licensed 6220 public functionaries and effected economies in the budget amounting to a minimum of 385 million leva. The efficiency with which the work of overhauling the functioning of the administration was carried out may be gauged by the report on the management of the Pernik coal mine, which is an autonomous institution under State control. The new directors found that the former Agrarian Minister Ghitsev, under whose province came the supervising of

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the mine, had nominated 75 partisans as supernumeraries at a daily wage varying between 120 and 150 leva and that these busybodies never presented themselves at the mine even to receive their salaries, but that they had their emoluments regularly remitted to them at their domiciles. Another 170 persons had likewise been appointed in order to receive stipends but without doing any work. The new administration dismissed all redundant functionaries and by the beginning of 1935 the staff had been reduced from 5750 early in 1934, to 5100. The cost of extraction nad been diminisued from an average of 217 leva per ton in 1933, to 193 leva in 1934, and the quantity of coal extracted per day of 8 working hours per miner had increased from 753 kg. to 839 kg. The total output of the mine for 1934 reached the record figure of 1,266,000 tons. A saving of some 30 millions had been realised in the working of the mine, in spite of a decrease of 20% in the price of the coal delivered to the State railways and of 10% to 16% in that furnished to other consumers, which reductions could be estimated as amounting to some 55 millions. The new management likewise attempted to improve the social amenities of the working people and was reported to have provided free meals for the children of the miners attending school, to have opened crèches, and replaced 500 miners, who possessed sufficient incomes to live independently, by others who had no resources whatever, a fact which shows that the colleagues of M. Gheorghiev were decided not only to effect economies, but also to deal out as large a measure of social justice as possible.

Another noteworthy measure passed by the Government was the law relative to the alleviation of debts, which radically solved a problem which was hanging fire for years. Owing to a drop of about 65% in the prices of agricultural produce between 1920 and 1933, the peasantry

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433 Neitsev remarked in the Sobranye on May 12, 1932, for Bulgarian flour was largely exported. 67 million kg. having been shipped in 1911 as against only 1,265,000 kg. in 1929. Actually ⅔ of the existing flour mills are redundant and can be bought at a quarter of their cost. This seems to be the case with most industries, for it was reported in 1933 that the mean output was only 45% of the normal.

316 433 There exists a scheme to develop anew copper mining in order that the 5 million kg. of copper sulfate needed annually for spraying the vines and which is obtained from Great Britain at a cost of 50 million leva may be produced locally. This plan may eventually materialise for the existing local copper mines produced as much as 31,310 tons in 1919 and the only product which would then be needed to import would be 700 to 800 tons of sulfuric acid at a cost of 5 million leva. Even this could be manufactured on the spot by utilising the local pyrites when the chemical industries are further developed.

The mineral resources of the country seem to be considerable, but they have not been properly exploited except in the case of the State-owned coal mine of Pernik the output of which reached 1,266,540 tons in 1934. There is a large lignite bed in the valley of the Maritsa, and recently it was reported that an extensive coal field had been discovered near Lom, on the Danube. The production of the mines in work during 1931, in tons was as follows:

Copper	Lead (1929)	Zinc (1929)	Mixed Zinc & Lead (1929)	Mixed Lead & Copper (1929)	Aluminium
900	3985	1925	11796	9923	1,382

Owing to the fall in prices most mines have closed. Salt is extracted from the saline marshes in the neighbourhood of Burgas, production varying from 35 (1932) to 19·5 (1933) million tons annually according to the state of the weather. Local requirements amount to about 60 million tons.